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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/806,921

03/23/2004

Akio Konishi

YAMAP0917US

3888

43076

7590

11/08/2006

MARK D. SARALINO (GENERAL)
RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP
1621 EUCLID AVENUE, NINETEENTH FLOOR
CLEVELAND, OH 44115-2191

EXAMINER

BLOUIN, MARK S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2627

DATE MAILED: 11/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/806,921

Applicant(s)

KONISHI ET AL.

Examiner

Mark Blouin

Art Unit

2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/10/06.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Detailed Action

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsuoka et al (US 6,466,395).

3. Regarding Claim 1, Matsuoka et al (Figs.1 and 3-6) shows a magnetic recording and reproduction apparatus, comprising a main chassis (1) having a rotatable head cylinder (2) provided thereon and a sub chassis (27) on which a tape cassette is mountable; wherein the sub chassis is movable with respect to the main chassis between a tape cassette mountable position and a tape pull-out completion position, and the tape cassette mountable position is a position at which the tape cassette is mountable on the sub chassis and the tape pull-out completion position (Col 5, line 43-47) is a position at which information recording to and information reproduction from the tape which has been pulled out from the tape cassette and has been wound around the rotatable head cylinder, can be performed; and a portion of the main chassis along a forward end thereof is cut out (Fig. 3, cutout 1') toward the rotatable head cylinder.

4. Regarding Claim 2, Matsuoka et al (Figs.1 and 3-6) shows a magnetic recording and reproduction apparatus, further comprising: a rotatable capstan (3) for driving the tape; a supply reel stand (28) engaged with a supply reel of the tape cassette; a take-in reel stand (29) engaged

Art Unit: 2627

with a take-in reel of the tape cassette and an idler (31) engaged with the supply reel stand or the take-in reel stand in accordance with a rotation direction of the capstan so as to drive and rotate the supply reel stand or the take-in reel stand; wherein, the idler is pivotably provided on the main chassis (1), and at least one of sections of the portion of the main chassis along the forward end thereof each section being to a side of the pivoting shaft of the idler is cut out to a position beyond the pivoting shaft of the idler toward the rotatable head cylinder (See Figure 1).

5. Regarding Claim 3, Matsuoka et al (Figs.1 and 3-6) shows a magnetic recording and reproduction apparatus, wherein the forward end of the main chassis (1) has an L-shaped cross-section (Fig.5).

6. Regarding Claim 4, Matsuoka et al (Figs.1 and 3-6) shows a magnetic recording and reproduction apparatus, further comprising a plurality of tape pull-out members (20,21) operable to pull out the tape from the tape cassette, wherein all of the plurality of tape pull-out members are provided on the sub chassis.

7. Regarding Claim 5, Matsuoka et al (Figs.1 and 3-6) shows a magnetic recording and reproduction apparatus, further comprising a plurality of tape pull-out members operable to pull out the tape from the tape cassette (20,21), wherein each of the plurality of tape pull-out members operates to pull-out the tape from the tape cassette as the sub chassis moves (Col 6, lines 24-52) from the tape mountable position to the tape pull-out completion position.

8. Regarding Claim 6, Matsuoka et al (Figs.1 and 3-6) shows a magnetic recording and reproduction apparatus further comprising: a plurality of tape pull-out members operable to pull out the tape from the tape cassette (Col 6, lines 24-52); at least one guide member (20') for pulling at least one of the plurality of tape pull-out members; at least one arm (28) for driving the

Art Unit: 2627

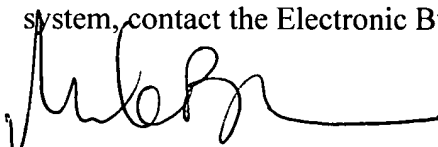
at least one tape pull-out member (20); and a link member (22) for connecting one of the at least one tape pull-out member and one of the at least one arm; wherein the at least one guide member is provided on the main chassis the at least one arm is provided on the sub chassis; the link member is pivotably engaged with the one of the at least one tape pull-out member at one end of the link member and is pivotably engaged with the one of the at least one arm at another end of the link member (Col 6, lines 24-52).

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Blouin whose telephone number is 571-272-7583. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 6:00 to 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa Nguyen, can be reached on 571-272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Mark Blouin
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2653
October 31, 2006